

## PREFACE

This environmental assessment is prepared to assess potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed action to expand the Volpentest Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response (HAMMER) Training and Education Center to include: an emergency vehicle operations course and the National Utility Training Services site. The impacts of the adjacent Cold Test Facility (CTF) are included for completeness, although the CTF is not part of the HAMMER facility. The remaining area being evaluated is reserved for future uses. Information contained herein will be used by the Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, to determine if the Proposed Action is a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. If the Proposed Action is determined to be major and with significant impacts, an environmental impact statement will be prepared. If the Proposed Action is determined not to be major and with significant impacts, a Finding of No Significant Impact will be issued and the action may proceed. Criteria used to evaluate significance are found in Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27.

This environmental assessment is prepared in compliance with the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969*, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the *National Environmental Policy Act* (Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations 1500-1508), and the U.S. Department of Energy Implementing Procedures for the *National Environmental Policy Act* (Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations 1021).

The following is a description of each section of this environmental assessment.

- 1.0 Purpose and Need for Action.** This section provides a brief statement concerning the problem or opportunity the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, is addressing with the Proposed Action. Background information is provided.
- 2.0 Description of the Proposed Action.** This section provides a description of the Proposed Action with sufficient detail to identify potential environmental impacts.
- 3.0 Alternatives to the Proposed Action.** This section describes reasonable alternative actions to the Proposed Action, which address the Purpose and Need. A No Action Alternative, as required by Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations 1021, also is described.
- 4.0 Affected Environment.** This section provides a brief description of the locale in which the Proposed Action would take place.
- 5.0 Environmental Impacts.** This section describes the range of environmental impacts, beneficial and adverse, of the Proposed Action. Impacts of alternatives briefly are discussed.
- 6.0 Permits and Regulatory Requirements.** This section provides a brief description of permits and regulatory requirements for the Proposed Action.
- 7.0 Organizations Consulted.** This section lists any outside groups, agencies, or individuals contacted as part of the environmental assessment preparation and/or review.
- 8.0 References.** This section provides a list of documents used to contribute information or data in preparation of this environmental assessment.

**Appendices.** Additional information necessary to support an understanding of the Proposed Action, alternatives, and potential impacts is provided.